

Serial No. 10/674,213

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended): A high hardness martensitic steel surface with distributed carbide particles produced according to the method of claim 5, by the steps of:

a) introducing an addition of a powder mixture containing 10 to 60 weight percent titanium carbide powder and the balance steel onto a steel surface by preplacing said mixture on the surface, feeding said mixture into the interaction area, or combining the preplacing and feeding of the addition components;

b) laser melting said powder additions and a relatively small amount of the steel surface using 1 % to 100 % nitrogen as shielding gas; and

c) cooling at a rate such that a steel surface with fine titanium carbonitride particles is formed.